Arrangements for Haj pilgrims

2025. SHRI RS. GAVAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haj pilgrims were not satisfied with the arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee during this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Government and the Central Haj Committee strive continuously to both improve and enhance the facilities for Indian pilgrims every year.

Dilapidated condition of Gurdwara buildings in Pakistan

2026. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government arc aware that some Sikh Gurdwaras of Historical importance are in a dilapidated condition in Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that some Gurdwaras and its buildings are being used for housing, schools and dispensaries, etc. in Pakistan;

(c) whether Government have identified all such Gurdwaras/ buildings and have brought to the notice of Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Government have received complaints that Sikh religious shrines in Pakistan are not being maintained properly and their sanctity is not being preserved. Under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines signed between India and Pakistan in September 1974, it is the

obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that places of religious worship in the agreed list are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. Government of Pakistan has been apprised of the complaints received from time to time regarding the maintenance of the concerned religious shrines and the preservation of their sanctity.

It is also Government's view that recent changes made by the Government of Pakistan in the system of administration of Sikh religious shrines in that country constitute an interference in Sikh affairs.

Joint naval exercise by Pakistan and Bangladesh

† 2027. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan and Bangladesh held a joint naval exercise in last April;

(b) if so, whether Government had a prior information regarding this exercise;

(c) whether it is not necessary for a country to inform its neighbouring countries during the goodwill visit;

(d) the provision of international law/international agreement in this regard; and

(e) whether Pakistan and Bangladesh had fully observed the terms and conditions listed in International law/agreement during the said joint naval exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) According to reports available with Government, two Pakistani Naval ships and a submarine visited Chittagong (Bangladesh) as part of a "goodwill mission". During the visit, the Pakistan ships conducted joint naval exercises with the Bangladesh Navy. Government closely monitors all events having a direct bearing on India's national security and are firmly

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.